



SEAMAN

communicator

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SEAMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Area Dates & Events

MAY

- 12 SMS/SHS Orchestra Concert 7:00 pm
- 16 WI PTO 7:00 pm
- 19 NO SCHOOL ROCHESTER & PLEASANT HILL
- 19 Early Release - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
- 20 NO SCHOOL - Professional Learning Day

Please check the online calendar for current info and locations. www.seamanschools.org/calendar



Meet Dr. Noble

pg. 4



2nd graders spend A Day on the Farm

pg. 2

Sign up for

Summer Camps!

www.seamanschools.org/summercamps
SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER SPECTACULAR

PROMOTION & GRADUATION SCHEDULE

SHS Graduation - May 15
4:00 pm at KS Expocenter

8th Grade Promotion - May 17
7:00 pm at Seaman High School

6th Grade Promotions - May 18
Each elementary promotion will be held in their own school.

Elmont	2:00 pm
Logan	9:30 am
North Fairview	9:30 am
Pleasant Hill	9:30 am
Rochester	10:00 am
West Indianola	1:30 pm



Teachers graduate the first-ever Apple Training Academy

pg. 6



James Adams
Board President

Another great school year with Seaman School District is coming to an end but that doesn't mean our work is done. Your board continues to be busy working with administration on gearing up for the next school year. With the 1:1 Digital Learning initiative on the horizon, we'll be looking at policies and other updates needed to keep up with our transition.

One of the recent updates I would like to highlight is our book and technology fee structure. The board approved new guidelines that will allow students who qualify for free and reduced lunch to also qualify for free and reduced textbook fees as well. And in May, we will be voting to align the technology fee to these same guidelines, so fees would match the included chart. As you can see, the Pre-K-6 fees would not increase and in all grades, dollars have been moved from book fees to technology fees as we become more digital. However, there is an increase of \$20 to grades 7-12 for 24/7 access to a MacBook Air for the entire school year.

PROPOSED 2016-17 Book & Technology Fees

	Pre-K	Grades K-6	Grades 7-12
BOOK FEES			
Regular	\$30	\$60	\$60
Reduced		\$20	\$20
Free		FREE	FREE
TECH FEES			
Regular	\$22.50	\$45	\$65
Reduced		\$20	\$45
Free		FREE	\$25
TOTAL FEES			
Regular	\$52.50	\$105	\$125
Reduced	\$52.50	\$40	\$65
Free	\$52.50	FREE	\$25

**INCLUDES
MacBook Air**

Throughout the summer, we will continue to serve the Seaman School District as we move into the 2016-17 school year to ensure our students are getting the best education possible.

DAY ON THE FARM

with SHS's Future Farmers of America (FFA)

Last month, Seaman's FFA hosted its annual "Day on the Farm" for USD 345 second graders.

The day gives students the opportunity to learn about agriculture. "This is a rough day in age where people have no idea where their food comes from," said FFA Sponsor Megan VanGordon. "My goal is to help ensure that kids don't just think their food comes from Walmart. If nothing else, it is a fantastic experience for them to actually see the animals up close and even get to pet them.

Many kids have never seen farm animals and I love it when they get so excited about being around them."

SHS students get the opportunity to teach younger kids what they know. It gives the high schoolers the perspective of a teacher for the day. They get to see what its like to teach kids who know nothing about agriculture and they get a greater understanding of what they are teaching and it helps further their passion for agriculture.



SHS students set up six different stations for the second graders to visit that included beef and swine, plants and water quality, tractors, healthy living, poultry and eggs, and goats and dairy. At these stations, second graders learned where their food comes from, how to take care of animals and the environment, and how to live a healthy lifestyle. Students even made their own butter! One FFA member said "This is a great and important program that the kids love!"

A B C

WE HAVE OPENINGS!

HALF-DAY PRESCHOOL

Little Vikes

Call
785-575-8600
for more
info

Seaman School District has openings for the 2016-2017 school year. Applications are available at the Seaman Education Center.

REQUIREMENTS

- must be four-years-old by Aug. 31, 2016
- live in the Seaman District
- meet one of the following eligibility criteria:
 - Evaluated and has a developmental delay
 - Has a primary language other than English
 - Has a parent who lacks a high school diploma or GED
 - Has one parent age 19 or younger at birth
 - Lives in a single parent family
 - Has a referral from Kansas DCF
 - Has parents who are migratory agricultural workers
 - Qualifies for free school lunch program

www.seamanschools.org/littleviks

IMMUNIZATION/CHILD HEALTH ASSESSMENT NOTIFICATION



Seaman USD #345 School District will abide by the State of Kansas Immunization (Kansas Statute 72-5209) and Child Health

Assessment (Kansas Statute 72-5214) laws. All students enrolling in any school in the district shall provide written proof of current immunization of certain diseases as mandated by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Environment. In accordance with K.S.A. 72-5214, all students up to the age of nine years shall submit evidence that the student has undergone a physical examination during the previous calendar year prior to entering a district preschool or kindergarten or before enrolling in any school for the first time. Those students notified prior to May 15 of the current school year, must show proof of compliance on the first day of school for the following year. For questions, please contact Chris Tuck, Health Services Director at 785-8700 or ctuck@usd345.com.

USDA SUMMER MEALS SERVED HERE!

Children Ages 1-18

EAT FREE!

No Fee – No Registration

LOGAN ELEMENTARY
MAY 31 to JULY 29
11:00 am - NOON

Tuesday, May 31 to Friday, July 29 (Monday - Friday)
Closed Monday, July 4 | For more information call 575-8650



with Dr. Noble



Dr. Steve Noble will become the Seaman School District Superintendent of Schools on July 1, 2016. Noble holds a bachelor's degree from Pittsburg State University, a master's degree from Eastern Illinois University and a doctorate from Wichita State University.

Dr. Noble currently serves as Superintendent of Schools at USD 410 in Hillsboro, KS. He has held the position since 2009. Prior to becoming a superintendent, Dr. Noble served a variety of administrative roles in Haven USD 312 that included activities' director, assistant principal, principal, and director of curriculum and instruction. He previously taught middle and high school industrial technology in Rose Hill, Great Bend, and Osceola, Missouri.

looking forward to moving to Topeka and making new friends. It's bitter sweet for my wife Gita and me. We have good friends and enjoyed our time in Hillsboro, but we are really excited for the new opportunity at Seaman. We've already met so many nice folks who have made us feel welcome.

Gita has been an educator for about 24 years. Most of those years were spent teaching middle school math. She began in USD 259 Wichita at Truesdell Middle School. From there, she transitioned to Wichita Collegiate which was her alma mater. She served as the middle school dean of students at Collegiate for seven years. From there, she and I were married and she taught middle school math at Haven, Mt. Hope, and Hillsboro for the past 16 years.

Gita will be the new College and Career Ready Internship teacher at SHS next school year. She is a dedicated educator. She is a kid first person who builds strong relationships with her students. She is super excited about her new challenge and has already begun making contacts in Topeka for the program.

Our daughters are involved in choir, band, guitar, swimming, volleyball, basketball, track, softball, and theater performances. They are excited for the variety of school classes and activities at USD 345. They all enjoy school and it's gratifying and important to us that they do well. Our girls enjoy performing and competition. As you can imagine, most of our time is spent traveling to their various school and community activities. We expect that will continue in Seaman as well.

What attracted you to the Seaman School District?

As I've grown in the role as a superintendent, I've been asked to serve on a few state committees. I met Mr. Mathes who always seemed to be in charge of something or another. I was impressed with his ability to lead and articulate a vision for our superintendent's organization. He was the first person that drew my interest to Seaman.

Seaman has separated itself from other public schools in the practical application of the definition of college and career readiness. With the success 101 classes and the high school internship program, it

How long were you in the classroom before moving into an administrative position?

I taught six years prior to moving into administration; one year at Osceola, MO, two years at Great Bend, and three years at Rose Hill. I remember one of my teaching professors at Pittsburg State telling me I should consider going into administration some day. When the assistant principal position opened at Haven in 1997, I thought, 'Why not?'

I really never thought about getting into administration once I began teaching. I really enjoyed teaching and coaching. In fact, there was a time in my life when I thought I'd become a college coach, except I really didn't enjoy sleeping on the film room floor as a graduate assistant for the Eastern Illinois Football program. However, I feel my coaching and teaching background prepared me well for administration.

As coaches, we were in the public eye quite a bit and our decisions were scrutinized frequently. The same is true for administration. As a teacher, I taught industrial tech (shop class), which didn't have the focus it has now in terms of being a critical piece to college and career readiness. During that time, it often was a place for struggling students to gain a workplace skill and keep them from dropping out. Overall, working with my students and coaching athletes helped me improve on meeting the needs of all types of students, and parent/public communication skills.

Please tell us a little bit about your family. Are they excited about the move to Seaman?

Honestly, leaving Hillsboro was a tough decision for us. It has been our home for the past seven years and we're very involved in the community. For my daughters, Hillsboro has been the place in which they've grown up, but they are pretty outgoing and



leadership team to improve our district in times of incredible financial and enrollment challenges. During my time there, we completed the final two bond projects approved prior to my arrival: the collaborative football stadium with Tabor College and the district office and bus barn facility. We began a new 1:1 laptop initiative in 2009 for grades 6-12. We started all-day kindergarten in 2014. We've begun a farm to school initiative at our elementary school. We combined our staff at Hillsboro Middle and High school to maximize efficiency with our teaching and learning. By doing this, we began to shift how we teach from isolation to collaboration. We also adopted a learning by doing philosophy which encourages all of our teachers to incorporate projects in their lessons to maximize student engagement and real life applications. Hillsboro High School has 22 approved CTE pathways. This is remarkable for a school of 160 students. We also were one of the first districts in Kansas to fully implement Project Lead the Way (PLTW) in K-12. PLTW is a nationally recognized STEM program focused on project based learning.

Last month, Hillsboro High School was notified we received the Governor's Achievement Award. This award was given to the top 5% of high schools in the state and only 11 were recognized. Hillsboro does not focus at all on state assessments so this achievement is more about the students' abilities, outstanding teachers, rigorous academic programs and a caring community than it was about Hillsboro preparing for the test.

Finally, I am proud of the collaboration that exists between USD 410, Tabor College, and the Hillsboro community, including our partnership with the community foundation and local dentist office to offer dental care for underprivileged kids who otherwise would not be able to get the care they need.

You will be the first ever Superintendent of Seaman Schools hired from outside of the district with a very new administration team. How do you feel this fresh perspective will be advantageous to USD 345?

Talk about pressure...On the one hand, with having all new administration, or relatively new administration, we should be mindful we of losing some of the appreciation for the Seaman way of doing things. As I mentioned before, the history of the community and family type atmosphere seems to be an important piece to the success of Seaman

is exciting to see how the vision at Seaman is taking shape. I also learned quickly how proud the people are of the Seaman district. It didn't take long for me to understand the feeling of family and togetherness that the Seaman community feels for each other. They are proud to be Seaman Vikings and we are glad to be joining the Seaman family.

From your perspective, what is the job of a superintendent?

The most important role for the superintendent is to carry out the vision, mission, and goals of the school board. The superintendent must also be keen at understanding

the differing perspectives that are bound to exist among our staff and community and build consensus in a way that best serves the students of USD 345 going forward. To be most effective at understanding the community and developing trust, the superintendent should be visible, active, and involved in the community. Trust emerges when the leader's talk and actions line up. A good superintendent always puts "students first" in every decision (s)he makes.

What are some of your greatest professional accomplishments?

I am most proud of how USD 410 came together as a board and

USD 345. It will be important for us to hold fast to the history that influences the goodness about our community and school district. At the same time, having so many new folks will provide the district with the opportunity for new ideas to emerge. New ideas can help our community and school district continue to grow and improve as teaching and learning continues to adapt in the 21st century. I know that to really have the positive impact we hope to have, we must be fully engaged in the Seaman community and not simply "work here." We must lead by being Seaman Vikings through and through.

Can you describe the relationship you hope to create with the Seaman Community?

I am beginning meetings with USD 345 administration and teachers in April. I will continue meetings with building staff, parent groups, the business community, civic groups, and students once I come on board, July 1. All of these meetings will occur during my first 100 days in the district. I am asking three questions of all of the groups to help focus our discussions:

1. What do we do well?
2. What challenges or concerns do we have?
3. What changes and/or solutions should we consider going forward?

I do get a sense of the small community feel that exists at Seaman. I've spent much of my life in communities where the schools were the centerpiece of community activity and pride. I look forward to that continuing in Seaman.

What are you looking forward to the most in your new position? What will a successful first year look like to you?

Right now, I'm looking forward to getting settled in Topeka. Our family will be split during much of June with Gita and the girls in Topeka while I finish up in Hillsboro. Once I'm settled with my family, I look forward to meeting the staff who work throughout the summer at Seaman. I plan on doing a lot of listening to responses about the three questions mentioned earlier. I will enjoy meeting new people and getting a feel for the district.

The successful first year will result in the board of education, staff, and community gaining trust and confidence in me. I believe strongly in keeping our focus on the vision the board previously adopted. I hope to report that our 1:1 laptop initiative was a big success. I also expect to see expansion of career and technical education pathways at Seaman High School including plans to implement engineering, computer science, and biomedical pathways. Finally, I expect to have initial plans on expansion of early childhood programs in the district.

Do you have any summer plans before the start of the school year?

We have a family reunion in June. Other than that, our summer will be spent acclimating to the Seaman district and getting our kids involved in the many camps and activities offered by Seaman and the Topeka area organizations.

Which areas of education are you most passionate about?

I believe the investment in early childhood education is one of the best investments we can make as a school district. Research is pretty compelling about the positive impact quality early childhood education has on the students and communities in which they live. Efforts like Parents as Teachers, Head Start,

Universal PreK, all-day kindergarten, and strong MTSS programs in primary grades at our elementary schools are paramount to our students' success going forward. I also believe emphatically in learning by doing and hope to see efforts made by every teacher in our district to expand our project based learning opportunities for our students. I anticipate having dialog about incorporating PLTW courses in our elementary, middle, and high school to provide a rigorous STEM project based learning curriculum throughout our school system.

You're currently very active on Twitter. Will that continue to be a good way to follow you?

Yes, this is a good way to follow me. My twitter handle at Seaman will be @StevePNoble and I also have a Facebook page and a blog. My blog is 2experiencelearning.blogspot.com.



In preparation for next year's 1:1 initiative, Seaman just finished its first-ever Apple Teacher Academy, which consisted of 25 elementary and 24 secondary teachers from each one of our buildings. The academy was led by Brooke Ralph and Megan Nussbaum, who previously attended a week-long Apple Foundations training through Apple headquarters in Cupertino, CA. The week-long course covered how to think critically, creatively, and reflectively on integrating Apple products into learning and teaching. Brooke and Megan then came back and trained the Seaman staff on what they learned. Next year, Brooke and Megan will continue to provide on-site professional development opportunities for staff on how to best use Apple devices, using this "train the trainer" model.

The courses covered during the sessions were the Apple Foundations courses and included:

- OS X Becoming a Power User for Learning and Teaching
- OS X Enhancing Personal Productivity and Collaboration
- Documenting and Reflecting with iMovie
- Capturing and Sharing Learning with Photos-iPhoto
- Amplifying Learning with GarageBand
- Creating Compelling Presentations with Keynote
- Authoring Dynamic Documents with Pages
- Making Data Meaningful with Numbers
- Publishing Interactive Content with iBooks Author

These same Apple Foundations courses will be offered during Seaman's summer professional development days at the end of May for any staff member and during the school year, all of the sessions will be professional development opportunities for district staff. With more staff familiar and comfortable using their Apple devices, students benefit by being able to use the Apple tools to express their own knowledge and creativity.

SEAMAN USD 345 2016-17 School Calendar

CALENDAR LEGEND

End of Quarter	
No School – Holidays	
No School – Work Day/ Professional Learning	
Early Release Day/ Professional Learning	
No School – Parent Conferences	
Days to Remember	

*Early Release Days Schedule

Students released at:
SMS – 11 a.m.
SHS – 11:05 a.m.
Elementary – 12:15 p.m.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Although the calendar designates October 20-21 and February 17 as Parent Teacher Conference Days, conferences are scheduled during these weeks in the evenings to accommodate parent schedules.

Enrollment Dates

ONLINE ENROLLMENT OPENS

Jul 11 - Aug 18
www.seamanschools.com/enroll

ENROLL IN PERSON

New students must enroll in person.
August 4, 11:00 am - 7:00 pm
K-12 at Seaman High School

Preschool Enrollment Aug. 8
by appointment only.
Must bring proof of residency.

August					Student Days
M	T	W	Th	F	
01	02	03	04	05	
08	09	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	2
22	23	24	25	26	7
29	30	31			10
September					
			01	02	12
05	06	07	08	09	16
12	13	14	15	16	21
19	20	21	22	23	26
26	27	28	29	30	31
October					
03	04	05	06	07	36
10	11	12	13	14	40
17	18	19	20	21	43
24	25	26	27	28	48
November					
31	01	02	03	04	53
07	08	09	10	11	57
14	15	16	17	18	62
21	22	23	24	25	64
28	29	30			67
December					
			01	02	69
05	06	07	08	09	74
12	13	14	15	16	79
19	20	21	22	23	82
26	27	28	29	30	
January					
02	03	04	05	06	84
09	10	11	12	13	89
16	17	18	19	20	93
23	24	25	26	27	98
30	31				100
February					
		01	02	03	103
06	07	08	09	10	108
13	14	15	16	17	112
20	21	22	23	24	116
27	28				118
March					
		01	02	03	121
06	07	08	09	10	126
13	14	15	16	17	130
20	21	22	23	24	130
27	28	29	30	31	135
April					
03	04	05	06	07	140
10	11	12	13	14	144
17	18	19	20	21	148
24	25	26	27	28	152
May					
01	02	03	04	05	157
08	09	10	11	12	162
15	16	17	18	19	167
22	23	24	25	26	170
29	30	31			

Date Events

Aug. 4	Enrollment - In Person
Aug. 10-11	New Teachers Report
Aug. 12	Teachers Report
Aug. 12-17	Professional Learning
Aug. 18	First Day of School
Sept. 5	No School – Labor Day
Oct. 7 (tentative)	SHS Homecoming – *Early Release
Oct. 7	End of 1 st Quarter
Oct. 10	No School – Professional Learning-Work Day
Oct. 20-21	Parent-Teacher Conferences
Nov. 7	No School – Professional Learning
Nov. 23-25	No School – Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 21	End of 2 nd Quarter
Dec. 21	Professional Learning-Work Day - *Early Release
Dec. 22-31	No School – Winter Break
Jan. 2-3	No School – Winter Break
Jan. 4	No School/Professional Learning
Jan. 5	School Resumes
Jan. 16	No School – Martin Luther King Day
Feb. 17	Parent-Teacher Conferences
Feb. 20	No School/Professional Learning
March 16	End of 3 rd Quarter
March 17	No School – Professional Learning-Work Day
March 20-24	No School – Spring Break
April 14	Snow Day Make Up (Second Day)
April 17	Snow Day Make Up (First Day)
April 28	No School/Professional Learning
May 21	SHS Graduation
May 29	Memorial Day
May 24	Last Day of School – *Early Release
May 25	No School – Professional Learning-Work Day

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

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
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PRE-SORT INC

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
MAY 19 (EARLY RELEASE)**

**NO SCHOOL FOR
ROCHESTER &
PLEASANT HILL
MAY 19**

**NOW ACCEPTING
IN-DISTRICT
TRANSFER REQUESTS**

seamanschools.org/transfer
**Questions?
785-575-8600**



Parents as Teachers®
Affiliate

WE HAVE OPENINGS

Requirements

- live in the Seaman district
- child/children prenatal to age 3

PAT is a free program.

Questions?

785-575-8770 or jshipp@usd345.com



**-NEW THIS YEAR-
REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE
www.seamanschools.org/SEAF**

Alumni Banquet

June 5 @ Capitol Plaza Hotel
Reception at 4:00 p.m.

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Cost is \$28 | Door Prizes

Celebrating Class reunions for:

1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976,

1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006

[seamanschools.org/alumni](http://www.seamanschools.org/alumni)

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

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SeamanUSD345



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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.